

**Township Committee**  
**Richard J. Franzen, Mayor**  
**Noble McNaughton, Deputy Mayor**  
**Kim Brown**  
**Janice Weber**  
**Joe Yates**



**Doug Cramer, Administrator**  
**LaShawn Barber, Township Clerk**  
**Dennis DeKlerk, Tax Assessor**  
**Susan Costales, Deputy Tax Collector**  
**Bob Perri, Code Enforcement Officer**  
**Margaret Guerina, Court Clerk**

**Edition 1 Volume IV**

**[www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov](http://www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov)**

**August 2006**

### *Mayor's Message*

The heat and humidity are high this time of year and I'm sure your feelings are also running high as you read your current tax bill. My taxes went up quite a bit and I'm sure that many of you had a similar experience. Please take a close look at your tax bill to see for whom the Township collects taxes.

Less than 10% of your taxes are collected for municipal expenses (this year it is actually 8.48%). In addition to the total collected from us, the State contributes about \$950,000 to local municipal aid. Costs for the County Library, County Open Space Program, County Government, and our local fire district tax account for another 22%. That leaves about 70% of money collected by the Township that goes to our two school systems.

In the past, the State has contributed as much as 60% of the costs of school systems. Today that percentage is closer to 40%. One of the reasons our school taxes have spiked so high is that the State no longer contributes its mandated amount. Thus the school systems are forced to ask local citizens to make up the difference. There is a state formula that determines State contributions to school districts. The State has not abided by it for many years and this has resulted in our Lenape District receiving about 100 million dollars less than its entitlement. Guess who has to make up the difference.

Then there are the "Abbott" school districts. The thirty-one of them receive over 50 per cent of the State school aid. That leaves less than 50 per cent for the remaining 600 plus local and regional districts.

Governor Corzine has proposed several reforms to our property tax problem. Many of these suggestions have bipartisan support and if enacted, will provide some relief. However, when the governor seems to focus in on local government and suggest they be more efficient, he demonstrates a lack of knowledge regarding how towns operate.

Tabernacle Township has been a long time member of the Burlington County Shared Services Consortium. That simply means that when possible we share with other towns any product or service that can save money (road salt for the winter time is a recent example). We also work with surrounding Townships and share equipment when it is beneficial to us. Finally both the Township and the local school district share whenever it makes sense. This may involve the Township snow plowing school parking lots or lending the school certain township equipment.

Please keep a close watch on this tax reform process. Don't be shy about letting your elected state officials know your thoughts and concerns. If meaningful reform is to occur, we have to "keep up the heat and humidity."

### **Updates**

The NJDEP is continuing its underground water investigation for the source of contamination in the Richter Road area.

Tabernacle continues to communicate with the NJDEP to keep up with the ground water investigation. We anticipate holding a public meeting sometime in September to discuss test results.

### **State Police**

Tabernacle and the other rural municipalities managed to dodge the bullet on State Police charges for this year. We will in the future, have to look into policing alternatives. Part of the problem with charging these rural municipalities, is the fact that their ability to attract ratables to help offset these costs are limited, due to the fact that they are mostly located in the pinelands.

Also, these communities all contribute to public transportation and most have no public transportation available to their residents. So, we may be getting the benefit of the State Police there are many things that we don't have.

**Email us your comments.**  
**[www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov](http://www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov)**

### **Important Dates and Information**

August 28th - 8:00pm Regular Township Committee Meeting

September 11th - 7:30pm Township Committee Workshop

Tabernacle Township - 268-1220  
Office hours 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tabernacle Construction Office - 268-1665  
Call for hours

NJDEP Hotline - 1-800-927-6337

Burlington County Health Department - 265-5523

Pinelands Commission - 894-7300

### **Governor's Office**

Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000

Email

<http://www.nj.gov/governor/govmail.html>

### **Volunteers Needed!**

Tabernacle Township is a great community and the primary reason we are such a strong community is because of the great volunteers in our community.

Our emergency services are always looking for volunteers to help protect our community. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Medford Farms Volunteer Fire Company or Tabernacle Emergency Squad.

Tabernacle Township Emergency Management is looking for CERT members. (CERT - Community Emergency Response Team) When you join the Pinelands Regional CERT, you will receive basic-level training in the following areas:

Basic First Aid - CPR - Family Disaster Preparedness - Disaster Fire Suppression - Medical Operations - CERT Operations - Disaster Mental Health - Basic Emergency Management - Disaster Simulation - Skills Review

Tabernacle Office of Emergency Management  
609-268-1220 x 17 (leave message)

### **Senior Citizen Information**

Any Senior Citizen who has not registered for our Senior Citizen information should call town hall to be included in those mailings.

### **Reminder**

Recycling benefits everyone. Please recycle when you can and do not put recyclables out before the proper date. Do not put any white metal out with the regular trash.

Any non-profit organization or community group that would like to have an item include in future newsletters, please email them to [kbrown@townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov](mailto:kbrown@townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov) or send it to Town Hall attention: Kim Brown



### **This month's spotlight is on Eileen Baitzel our Receptionist**

"Hello, this is Eileen, how may I help you?" For a first time caller to our Town Hall this friendly greeting sets the stage and the mood for the conversation that follows. Eileen Baitzel believes that no caller should talk to a machine. She wants everyone to know that she is a "real person" and truly wants his or her town hall conversation to be satisfying. Our receptionist further feels that person-to-person contact generates a sense that she wants to help and that any caller should feel the friendliness of our township.

Born in the Midwest (can you tell from the accent?) she has lived in Burlington County for 34 years. She and Richard, her husband of 32 years, have three children - two girls and one boy. Eight months ago they became grandparents for the first time and today they treasure each moment they are able to spend with their grandchild.

Eileen's official job is that of the Township Receptionist. Usually she is the first person anyone has contact with when they arrive at Town Hall. She also handles dog licensing, deer carcass removal, trash complaints and animal control. In her "spare time" she works with other staff when there is an overflow of work. Just recently she assisted with the mailing of tax bills (over 2200) to all property owners within the township.

Each workday is a satisfying day for her. Whenever she is able to help someone she returns home at night thankful she has had a rewarding day. Eileen feels this happens everyday. With the recent gypsy moth problem she was just as frustrated as those reporting the issue to her. She felt their anxiety and sincerely hopes we do not have this problem in our township next year.

Her private, at home life is dedicated to her family and her church. Both are extremely important to her and she dedicates many hours to each. In addition, both she and Richard like to travel. When the World Trade Center disaster occurred, they were stranded in Hawaii and had untold trouble returning to the mainland. Hmmm, stranded in paradise!

Eileen is quite proud of the teamwork within Town Hall. It means a lot to her that everyone works harmoniously. The Public Works Department is very helpful and she appreciates their cooperative spirit. During the current renovations those painting the town hall have been extremely considerate to her and all of the staff.

Next time you stop by or call, please remember to greet Eileen with a hearty and friendly "hello", and "I hope you have a nice day."

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### **Make your home a safer place. Use this checklist to evaluate home hazards.**

*The following information was provided by the Medford Farms Volunteer Fire Company*

#### **Outside the house**

- \*Uneven ground? Level problem areas or mark them to prevent a fall.
- \*Do you have ice-melt, salt, or sand for icy driveways, sidewalks and porches?
- \*Are power tools and hazardous substances like weed killers, fertilizers or grease-removing solvents locked inside a cabinet, out of children's reach?
- \*Are flammable materials, such as gasoline or oil-soaked rags, in appropriate containers?
- \*Do you keep the garage door down and locked at all times?
- \*Is the automatic reverse mechanism working properly? Test it monthly!
- \*If you have a swimming pool, does it have a locked barrier to keep kids out when no adults are around to supervise them?

#### **Inside the house**

- \*When was the last time you tested your smoke alarms?
- \*When was the last time you changed the batteries?
- \*Do you have a fire escape route for your family?
- \*Do you notice any frayed wires, wires under carpets, loose plugs or gas smells around pipes or appliances?
- \*Do your throw rugs have non-skid padding?
- \*Do your staircases have handrails and slip-resistant floor coverings?
- \*Is there a bath mat near the bathtub or shower?
- \*Are household cleaning products and medications kept out of children's reach?
- \*Do they have childproof caps?
- \*Do you have a carbon monoxide detector?
- \*Is the number of your local poison control center posted near every phone?

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## **Water Facts**

*A lot of our residents receive letters from the Health Department for water notification. This month we are focusing on Nitrates*

### **What are Nitrates/Nitrites and how are they used?**

Nitrates and nitrites are nitrogen-oxygen chemical units which combines with various organic and inorganic compounds. Once taken into the body, nitrates are converted into nitrites. The greatest use of nitrates is as a fertilizer.

### **Why are Nitrates/Nitrites being regulated?**

In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. This law requires EPA to determine safe levels of chemicals in drinking water which do or may cause health problems. These non-enforceable levels, based solely on possible health risks and exposure, are called Maximum Contaminant Level Goals. The MCLG for nitrates has been set at 10 parts per million (ppm), and for nitrites at 1 ppm, because EPA believes this level of protection would not cause any of the potential health problems described below.

Based on this MCLG, EPA has set an enforceable standard called a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible, considering the ability of public water systems to detect and remove contaminants using suitable treatment technologies.

The MCL for nitrates has been set at 10 ppm, and for nitrites at 1 ppm, because EPA believes, given present technology and resources, this is the lowest level to which water systems can reasonably be required to remove this contaminant should it occur in drinking water.

These drinking water standards and the regulations for ensuring these standards are met, are called National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. All public water supplies must abide by these regulations.

*Please visit the website below for more detailed information.*

*This information was copied from the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/hfacts.html>*

